UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL
E/CN.4/2002/NGO/1
15 January 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE QUESTIONS OF: TORTURE AND DETENTION

Written statement* submitted by the Commission of Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[4 December 2001]

*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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ENG

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has a long history of involvement in work with uprooted people – both in the areas of humanitarian relief and assistance programmes and in advocacy for policy change.

The WCC policy statement on uprooted people adopted by the Central Committee in 1995, emphasized the increasingly grave plight of refugees and migrants in a time of escalating conflicts around the world. Amongst others the Statement noted:

"War, civil conflict, human rights violations, colonial domination and persecution for political, religious, ethnic or social reasons characterise every region and are major causes of forced human displacement to-day. Severe breakdown of economic and social conditions that once provided people with the means to survive in these traditional communities and in their own countries is accelerating the movement of the people."

The Statement went on to challenge the member churches of the WCC and related organisations to join in campaigns to uphold life and dignity, promote justice and peace in the world and accompany uprooted people.

In a Resolution adopted in January 2001, the WCC Executive Committee renewed "its call upon the churches in all regions to offer support, solidarity and accompaniment to those who have been forced to leave their communities, and to strengthen their own churches and ecumenical ministries with uprooted people"

In view of its ongoing work with uprooted people the Commission of Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches would like to bring to the attention of this Commission on Human Rights, situations in which Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees are generally treated. This we have highlighted by illustration of situations of detention of IDPs and refugees in Sri Lanka and Australia respectively. In both cases, victims of persecution are forced to suffer indignities and various types of serious violations of human rights. Their basic human right to freedom of movement is limited by arbitrary detention policies. They suffer economic hardship, psychological deprivation, and the lack of access to due process of law. Many of those forced to flee their communities in Sri Lanka or to seek protection in Australia have already suffered the consequences of war and human rights violations, including loss of family members, torture and imprisonment. They are doubly victimised when subjected to arbitrary detention by those from whom they seek protection

The situations giving rise to displacement of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are often a complex mixture of political repression, armed conflicts, ethnic discord and other factors. The problems faced by refugees and IDPs are not confined to any one particular region, they are widespread and growing. In fact, the presence of refugees and IDPs has become a permanent phenomenon in many regions. Despite representations and appeals by Churches around the globe inadequate attention is paid to their plight which is compounded by restrictive state policies and discriminatory practices. On pretext of national security, the State often derogates from adopting and practising internationally accepted norms and standards of human rights in respect of refugees and IDPs. This practice should be challenged and denounced.

Sri Lanka

The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has gone on for around two decades during which time many people have lost their lives on both sides of the ethnic divide. Since 1983, when the conflict escalated, Sri Lankan society has been engulfed with violence, hatred and destruction.

The culture of impunity and the breakdown of the rule of law have led to all pervasive violence and systematic violation of fundamental rights, especially those of Tamil people. The ongoing conflict has repeatedly uprooted thousands of Tamils, many of whom live as IDPs in various parts of the country under degrading and inhuman conditions. Some of these persons have been forced to move repeatedly from one inhospitable area to another. The IDPs belonging to the Tamil communities in the North and the East have suffered much at the hands of the Sri Lankan police and military. They have been subjected to discriminatory practices and policies, brutality, harassment, torture and illegal detentions.

On grounds of national security, the Sri Lankan Government has confined large sections of the Tamil population as IDPs in Vavuniya district and its surrounding areas. All of those detained are affected by these severe restrictions on freedom of movement. Of particular concern are the hardships experienced by elderly, the infirm, women and children. The living conditions in these areas are deplorable. There are inadequate housing facilities, poor sanitation and extremely limited opportunities for education, health care and transportation. The ominous presence of military and police personnel, with check-points everywhere means that this whole area is under a virtual state of siege.

Under the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
"Everyone has a right of freedom of movement and residence within the border of each state".

Articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
(7) "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular .....".
(9) "Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law".

Article 14 (h) of the Sri Lanka Constitution guarantees: "Every citizen is entitled to freedom of movement and of choosing his (her) residence".

The right to free movement is prerequisite to the development of the individual. The Government on the pretext of maintaining national security, national economy and public order has however curtailed this fundamental right of individuals to travel within their own country. It considers Vavuniya as a transit point between the Government-held and rebel-controlled areas in the Northern Province. People who reside here were displaced as a result of fighting between the Sri Lankan armed forces and the LTTE in 1996-97. Since then Vavuniya and its surrounding areas are under the control of the Sri Lankan Government, that has restricted free movement of IDPs through the enforcement of a system of "passes".

Pass Systems and its various Categories

The Pass system applicable in Vavuniya is comprehensive, cumbersome and extremely complicated. Though legally binding on all, it is applied mainly to IDPs of Tamil descent.

The Pass System comprises twenty different categories. Through this system of passes the Government has severely restricted the movement of the Tamil minority in clear violation of its obligation under the International Human Rights Law.

Australia

The Government of Australia has adopted a policy of discriminating between people granted refugee status since October 1999. At this time, a provision was made for those arriving onshore to receive a temporary protection visa with limited rights following grant of refugee status under Australian law. Prior to the granting of any visa or residency rights all onshore asylum seekers are mandatorily detained.

Since mandatory detention of asylum seekers was instituted some ten years ago, Australia has extended this policy to asylum seekers detained in one of the immigration detention facilities maintained by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, but administered by a private company, Australian Correctional Management Pty Limited, the parent company of which is Wackenhut Corporation. Locations include:

- Villawood Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) in Sydney, established in 1976.
- Maribyrnong IDC in Melbourne, established in 1966.
- Perth IDC, established in 1981.
- Immigration Reception and Processing Centre (IRPC) in Port Hedland, Western Australia, (a remote regional town in - the north west), established in 1991.
- Curtin IRPC in Derby, Western Australian, (located 40 km from Derby further north west on the edge of a desert re-commissioned in September 1999.
- Woomera IRPC in Woomera, South Australia, (a remote area some 1500 km from the nearest capital city) commissioned in November 1999 and
- A new centre about to be established at Christmas Island off the coast of Western Australia, the status of which is yet to be confirmed.

Australian's policies of mandatory, unlimited detention of all asylum seekers arriving on its territory sets it apart from virtually all other developed countries. Individuals whose asylum claims are denied and who cannot be returned to their countries of origin face unlimited detention. Moreover, there are concerns about the conditions of the detention centre which are not open to the public or to any systematic review process. Successive investigations, both by independent authorities and by a parliamentary committee, have all expressed serious concerns about conditions. Most recently the Inspector of Prisons in Western Australia stated that the Curtin IRPC failed to meet both national and international standards.

The largest detention centres in Australia are located in isolated areas remote from capital cities. This is problematic on several fronts. First, the lack of visibility for the public means that "out of sight is out of mind". Second, it is extremely difficult for churches or NGOs to access remote centres to provide support services. The third problem is that the remote locations make it difficult for churches and NGOs to provide independent scrutiny of practices within the detention centre.

Several riots have taken place in the detention centres. These are indications of a lack of management expertise and the degree of frustration and distress felt by those incarcerated.

Children and families in detention are the most vulnerable of detainees. Currently in Australia there are 73 unaccompanied minors in open detention centres. There is little official supervision of these children and special provision for their needs is adhoc, frequently dependent on the good graces of particular staff members or other detainees. High levels of depression and anxiety exist amongst all detainees, including parents. This leaves children in a potentially vulnerable position. Detention centres are administered by the national arm of government, but local state governments have the responsibility for child and family services. This expertise is therefore not easily available to detention centres and in some cases is

resented if offered.

Education for children within the detention centres is also limited, falling far below the standard which is offered to Australian children. There is some attempt to send a very select few to local schools. This has been a good experience for the children and the school, but is very limited by the number of students and the resources available. For instance children who have some English are able to access the Australian school system with little extra resource allocation. It is problematic for parents of children attending these schools to be assured that their children are being adequately cared for as they are not free to visit the school.

Asylum seekers in detention centres in Australia are severely disadvantaged, but the most distressing to people generally is the fact of detention, the feeling of isolation and the great uncertainty which surrounds them.

The Commission on Human Rights should call on the Sri Lanka and Australian governments to:
- review their policies of detention of IDPs and refugees-
- fulfil their obligations under the International Human Rights regime.
- provide access to NGOs, journalists and others to the detention centres.
- in the case of Sri Lanka, allow Sri Lankan citizens to exercise their right to free movement within the borders of their country, including elimination of the pass system.
- in the case of Australia, end its policy of mandatory detention of all asylum seekers

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UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2002/NGO/2
23 January 2002

ENGLISH AND SPANISH ONLY

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Written statement* submitted by Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 November 2001]

*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Situation of Woman's Human Rights.

In 1985, Argentine's government ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Woman Discrimination. Since then, several laws appointed to solve this problems have been approved. In the legal aspect, women's human rights have evolved significantly.

During the last two years there have been some forward and backward motions. In several provinces (states) family violence laws have been dictated. There have also been dictated some Reproductive Health Laws, the last one was in the Province of Buenos Aires, following the lineaments of the City of Buenos Aires laws.

About civic rights, it was dictated the Decree 1.246/2.000 which regulates the Law 24.012 (Ley de Cupos). This decree settles forever the interpretation about female candidate's location in the electoral list.

On the other hand, the registration of those fathers who don't pay on time the correspondent nourish assignments for their children is starting to be applied in the City of Buenos Aires as so in other provinces and townships.

However, effective and competent procedures able to guarantee the practice and benefit of these rights, haven't been established yet. Those advances don't coincide with the countries' general conditions in which the legal system is about to collapse, and there for it can't successfully apply any of it's own regulations. On the other hand, the lack of efficient and constant political campaigns appointed to defend the legislation that protects women generates ignorance on this subject, not only among women but also among the public officials responsible of it's application.

Yet it is waiting a Reproductive Health National Law and a Law Against Sexual Abuse at Work that contain the private activity, since they rule only in the Federal Government, in the City of Buenos Aires and in the Province of Buenos Aires.

It is also important to notice the necessity to assign enough budgetary consignment to the programs that promote truthful equal opportunities to fast legal organizations and to create enough quantity of Shelter Houses for women who are victims of violence.

Violence against women, in or out of the family, is an example of unequal power between the different sexual genders and it's a problem that concerns a grate number of women in our country. Being a beaten woman isn't opposed to the cultural and occupational status of a woman. It has to do with a woman's feeling of low esteem and with the stereotypes of submission to the male authority, strongly settled in our society.

We know that the 30 % of women who are victims of homicide are killed by their partners. According to the 1999's UNICEF report, in Argentina the 82 % of sexual abuse against children is perpetrated by their close relatives. Because of the seriousness of this problem the Family Violence National Law was dictated in 1995. This law may represent a step forward but it only establishes specific procedure rules for a local area. Afterwards, ten other provinces dictated laws following it, but with some differences among the contents on each jurisdiction.

It's also important to notice that since it's application, this law has been useful in order to observe the deficiencies of the courts of justice, which are overwhelmed by the demands of legal services. After this experience, it becomes necessary to establish a new law applicable to the whole country, which would include sanctions in case of nonfulfillment of the preventive rules and some other modifications which would help to identify the problem and to establish the terms for it's solution.

Furthermore, it is necessary to understand that everything does not finish in the legal scope. In most of the cases women have had to leave their home with small children and without resources, this requires the attention of interdisciplinary equipment able to offer sociological and social attention to them, in

shelter-homes. This necessity barely is taken care of by the State. Another key aspect to measure the degree of discrimination of the women is the labor situation.

The women represent around 40% of the labor force in Argentina, but they gain a 26.5% less than the men. More than half of them have non registered employments, without social assignments or pension contributions . The feminine presence is almost excluding in the domestic or housekeeping service and they are very important in the education field where 80% are women. At this moment Argentina, due to the years of recession, crosses a situation of poverty and unemployment. At the same time it has increased the number of homes headed by a woman. The last year it reached to 30% of the total of families, with the characteristic that increases in the sectors of lower income. In Gran Buenos Aires 53.6% of the children below 14 years old live in poor homes and it calculates that 50% of these homes are in charge of the mothers.

The Contract Law of Employment has as a principle the equality of wages between men and women, nevertheless to greater qualification (tertiary or university studies) the breach is accentuated, in these positions women receive salaries which are 35 % lower than men's on the same position. For a significant group of women its educative level is not translated in corresponding labor insertions, for that reason most women work on inferior tasks to the reached educative level.

In our country there are two laws sanctioned in the decade of the 70'. One of them orders the State to construct kindergartens in each district, and the other one delegates that responsibility to the private companies. However, none of them entered use. Present data provided by the Labor Ministry confirm that, on a total of 1000 collective agreements of work, only 20 of them include clauses related to day-care centers or maternal rooms.

Most women in addition to their remunerated jobs do the housekeeping, take care of the children, the ill people and the old people. The accumulation of tasks requires 12 to 24 hours per day, with risk of their physical and psychic health. Another serious problem in Argentina is the lack of serious campaigns of sexual education. Every time increases the number of young mothers and diminishes the average age of women who give birth.

The unwished pregnancy most frequently takes place in the lower layers with limited economic resources and little information. The clandestine abortion is one of the main causes of death among women in age to procreate. The legislation should explicitly allow sexual education for the minor ones, since at this moment the young people begin very early their sexual life.

The House of Representatives of the Nation (Chamber of Deputies) has sanctioned twice, in different periods, law projects on Reproductive Health. In both opportunities they were not treated by the Senate. Some states have legislated on the subject, but it is necessary a national law that contemplates all the aspects of the reproductive health, information and provisions of birth control methods.

In Argentina, Law 23,789/91 of Fight Against the AIDS establishes that such action is of national interest and that the authority responsible for it's application is the National Ministry of Health.

One of the negative characteristics of the governmental action is based on the instability of the technical equipment at central level whose changes, correspond, almost always, to political determinants. Thus, from the beginning of the epidemic they have begun and interrupted four massive means campaigns, for those reasons. Even though the first one was awarded for defending the human rights. The present one began in the current year. On the other hand and in spite of the sanction of Law 24455/95 on Social Security Cover still today the necessity is frequent to resort to justice to obtain its fulfillment. In addition, with the permanent adjustments of the national budget, the civil employees have justified in the saving the purchase of medicines (or its division) and preservatives, sometimes of questioned quality.

In Argentina, the proportion man/woman of AIDS patients has become stabilized in 3:1, in the last years. Nevertheless, it continues to increase the number of women who live with HIV/AIDS. The heterosexual relations without protection are still the most frequent way of transmission. 63% of the

women become infected by this channel. According to the Official Report on AIDS, the women they become ill in ages younger than the men (24 and 28 years respectively). From 1982 to 2000 there were registered, in all the country, 3,526 cases of AIDS in women and 14,215 in men. The rate of children below 13 years old infected with AIDS (6,9) is one of the highest of Latin America, altogether 1.317 cases.

UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2002/NGO/3
23 January 2002

ENGLISH AND SPANISH ONLY

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Written statement* submitted by Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 November 2001]

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*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE. *200201023 7*

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Social-Economic Report According to the Information provided by the Home Permanent Poll (HPP) on may 2001.

When the speculations over the announcement of the poll's results on may of this year was about to be postponed until august, the figures were known on july the 20th, in which it is noticed an increase in the unemployment rate from 15.4 % registered in may last year to16.4 % registered this year.

According to official versions, the unemployment number has increased in 206.000 people, reaching a record of 2.283.000 unemployed, a number which was never registered before, not even during the elevated unemployment rate reached on may 1995 (18,4 %), after the Tequila Crisis.

Moreover, we estimate that there are 2.074.000 sub-employed people, which means that they work less than 35 hours a week. For these reason we estimate that there are 4.357.000 people with employment's problems, which represents the 31.3 % of the Economically Active Population (EAP). We should have in mind that this is just the top of the iceberg and even among those who, according to the HPP, are considered full employees, there is a grate number of inequalities: non registered employment, over occupation (more than 45 work hours per week) without remuneration, salaries reduction, late salaries, bad security conditions, over qualification (which means that the employees have a higher level of education than the one required for the job).

Measurements	Rate	Rate	Number of People
Unemployed	15.4 %	16,4 %	2.283.000
Sub-employed	14.5 %	14,9 %	2.074.000
Total of people with employment's proble			4.357.000

The activity rate (relation between the Economically Active Population -EAP- and the total of the population) has had a small increase, passing from the 42.4% to 42.8 % between may 2000 and may 2001. There has been an increase of 433.718 people in the economically active population, the 47.5% of them passed to the unemployment condition, the 27.3 % to the sub-employment, and only the 25.2% of the people who were part of the EAP obtained a full occupation (more than 35 hours a week). Though the full occupation is increasing in 3.2%, the sub-occupation and the unemployment are growing in a greater number, 17.3 % and 22%, respectively.

This shows how the economic system creates employment but in a very slow rhythm, and on a higher percentage it creates precarious jobs.

Anyhow it's important to take notice that there are important differences between the urban agglomerations in our country, and that the indicator's behavior are tied to the evolution of Gran Buenos Aires (City of Buenos Aires City and Buenos Aires suburbs) since this urban agglomeration represents the 33.4% of the urban population of the country and the 37.8% of the economically active population. That's why it is noticed a grate regional disparity of the unemployment rate, with the Gran Catamarca's agglomeration on top of the list with 22.3% and the Rio Gallegos' agglomeration on the button of the list with only 2.1%.

Differences between the urban agglomerations with the highest unemployment rates:

Urban Agglomerations	**Unemployment Rate** **%**
Gran Catamarca	22.3 %
Gran Rosario	20.2 %
Mar del Plata	19 %
Partidos del Conurbano	18.7 %
San Salvador de Jujuy	18.6 %
Concordia	18.5 %
Gran San Miguel de Tucumán	17.4 %
Salta	16.1 %
Gran La Plata	16.8 %
Bahía Blanca	16.7 %
Corrientes	16.5 %
Santa Fe	16.5 %

On the other hand, while Gran Buenos Aires(17.2%) rates higher than the average, the Urban Interior Total (15.4%) is below the average. That's because under these denomination we find different region's realities, which leave us far form reality when we take it as a totality. Precisely, the extremes that we mentioned before (Gran Catamarca and Río Gallegos) are located under this very denomination.

The urban agglomerations that would be found in better conditions are, aside from Río Gallegos, Posadas (4.1%), San Luis and El Chorrillo (10.1%), Ushuaia and Rio Grande (10.6%) and the Gran Mendoza (10.7%).

But, aside from observing the differences between the last unemployment rate's report, it's necessary to appreciate which was the behavior of the different urban agglomerations by studding more specifically each behavior and relating them with other employment market's indicators, to reach a conclusion about its causes. On one side, we can notice how urban agglomerations evolved on the employment's market, using the Ministry of Economics' argument, which is based on the variation of the activity's and the unemployment's rates.

Poverty and Indigence in Gran Buenos Aires.

The gap between the richer 10% of the population and the poorer 10% deepened during De la Rua's Administration, continuing with the enlargement registered during Menem's Administration.

The distance between both layers shows the most regressive income's distribution registered on the last quarter of the century. This is the reason why the enlargement of poverty to nearly 33% of Gran Buenos Aires inhabitants implies the dropped down of the middle-low layers.

Between may 2000 and the same month in 2001, the number of people below the poverty line passed from 29.7 % to 32.7 % of the population, which means an increase of 10.1%. Since may 1994, when the lowest percentage of poverty was registered, this indicator has doubled in the main urban agglomeration of the country. These percentages applied to the studied population mean that, on may 2001, a group of 838.000 homes, which includes 3.959.000 inhabitants, were living below the poverty

line. On the other hand, as it is noticed in the graphic, the proportion of people suffering this social illness seems to increase more than the number of homes, which shows an enlargement of the families' internal composition.

The poverty is measured with the "poverty line" method, which establishes a group of nourishing and non nourishing necessities that are considered essential (beginning from the total homes' incomes, when they have the capacity to satisfy their needs by buying goods and services).

In order to calculate the essential needs for a family, a Total Basic Basket is established. For an adult equivalent, this basket cost $154.3, in April 2001. As the nourishing requirements are different according to the age, sex and people's activities, it is necessary to adequate it so that it reveals each person's characteristics in relation to this variables, that's why adult men between 30 to 59 years old, with moderate activities, are taken as a reference. For example: the necessities of a 7 to 9 year old child are equivalent to 0.72 of an adult's necessities, there for they are equivalent to U$S 111. The necessities of a man from 30 to 59 years are equivalent to1, the ones of a woman from 30 to 59 years old are equivalent to 0.74, and so on. There by, each group of age and sex (since 10 years old) has an equivalent, with which is estimated the total of the corresponding home.

On the other side, we notice that the proportion of people below the poverty line in Gran Buenos Aires (39.4% and 10.9% respectively) almost quadruplicates the one registered in the City of Buenos Aires. Also we noticed important differences between the first and the second stripe of Gran Buenos Aires (GBA). On the first one , GBA1 (Avellaneda, Gral San Martin, Lomas de Zamora, Moron, Quilmes, San Isidro, Tres de Febrero and Vicente Lopez) the proportion of people reached by poverty rises to 27.9%, while in the second one, GBA 2 (Almirante Brown, Berasategui, Esteban Echeverría, Gral. Sarmiento, Florencio Varela, La Matanza, Merlo, Moreno, San Fernando and Tigre) poverty reaches to almost half of the population, rising to 48.9%.

On the other side, we have the "indigence line" which is a concept that tries to establish whether homes' incomes are able to purchase a nourish basket that allows the family to satisfy the basic necessities of energy and protein. On this case, we use a basic nourish basket of minimum cost, which is established by the population's consumption habits. The price of this basket for an equivalent adult was $63.24, in April 2001.

In Gran Buenos Aires, the proportion of homes below the indigence line rose from 5.3% to 7.4% between may 2000 and the same month in 2001 while the population passed from 7.5% to 10.3%, which means that the proportion of indigent homes increased in 39.6% while the population increased in 37.3%, during this year.

Comparing to may 1994, the indigent homes almost tripled while the population has multiplied more than three times. This numbers show that the crisis affected more aggressively the most unprotected layers, doubling the number of poor people and tripling the number of indigents. There are 264.000 homes in indigence situat[illegible]ch means that 1247.000 inhabitants can't satisfy their basic necessities of subsis[illegible] gets even worst if we study those numbers separately on each region.

While in the City of [illegible]es, the population underneath this line reaches the 1.7% in the suburbs of Gran Buenos Aire[illegible] the 13%. Besides, in the first stripe of Gran Buenos Aires this number drops down to 8.9%, reaching in the second stripe the 16.4% of the population.

If we look at this nun[illegible], it could be clearly understood why the excluded and unemployed people keep fighting to obt[illegible]n " Employment Plan" (Plan Trabajar), which distributes, around U$S 120 to U$S 160 per habitant.

September 2001

UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2002/NGO/4
23 January 2002

ENGLISH AND SPANISH ONLY

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Written statement* submitted by Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 November 2001]

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*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE. *0020210240*

ENG

Report on unemployment in Argentina

Mental Health Commission of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (Asamblea Permanente para los Derechos Humanos – APDH)

The Mental Health Commission of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights has chosen to concentrate its efforts on the unemployment problem, since we consider the right to work to be the right most violated in the last decade in our country.

The government's statistics on unemployment are inexact. It is evident that they portray an unemployment rate inferior to the authentic rate if we remember that they do not include the "discouraged," who haven't been looking for work in the last month, those who work an hour a week, and rural workers.

In a country where the social gap (between rich and poor) has increased parallel to the unemployment rate (see graph) and in which unemployment is six times greater among the poor than among the rich, not to have work implies and threatens with the dreaded danger of starting down the road towards marginalization. Once fallen, returning is extremely difficult.

POPULATION AFFECTED	POVERTY LEVEL	INDIGENCE LEVEL
MAY 2000	29.7%	7.5%
MAY 2001	32.7%	10.3%

Already in 1986, the World Health Organization described unemployment as one of the main "epidemiological catastrophes" of contemporary society. We believe that it is planned violence that is exerted over society.

Social violence

In Argentina, with a tradition of social rights linked almost exclusively to the condition of being employed, where unemployment insurance is of scarce coverage and economic impact, the picture is completely different from Europe's. Instead of rights and public policies being foremost, the market appears as the only possible scenario where the situation plays itself out. This favors a social disciplinary process clearly perceived by the unemployed faced with the search for work. Unemployment becomes used as a method of social control.

This context is aggravated by the parallel violation of the social security rights of pensioners, who have also been the adjustment variable for the state's economy in the last decade and on whom the need to support their unemployed children falls, despite their own scarce resources.

This new socioeconomic model, which requires maximum security for financial and monetary capital, degrades human capital, relegating people to infrahuman conditions.

Restricted in his/her individual prerogative, an unemployed person feels obliged to accept any type of working conditions.

Working conditions have also been degraded by the so-called "Law of Labor Flexibilization." This so-called flexibilization also affects those who have work. Knowing that the labor supply amply exceeds the markets' demands for labor, those who are working today live in a continuous state of anxiety as to whether they'll be employed tomorrow. They will then also accept the violation of their labor rights to extremes unheard of in decades passed.

If early in the last century the eight-hour work day was a valued social conquest, today many working people conform to overemployment, even under unfavorable conditions: several jobs to reach the same income reached previously with one, non-remunerated overtime, etc.

In this social context unemployment becomes a structural and massive threat to society. However. it is portrayed and perceived as an individual phenomenon, which increases the feeling of powerlessness and lack of protection. The violence of being excluded from the labor market gets intensified in the form of traumatic anxiety: Since it is not perceived in its social origin, the individual reproaches him/herself, blames him/herself, retreats into automarginalization, becomes socially isolated. And society blames the unemployed as individually responsible.

A secondary victimization phenomenon is thus produced: The social disqualification and the disassociation from the previous in-group network that the person suffers greatly increase demands on family ties. Families can not provide enough support for the anxiety and loss of self-esteem suffered by the unemployed.

With parents who have lost their career perspectives or are threatened by this possibility and with grandparents who are excluded from a minimum of social security (deficient or non-existent pension provisions), young people who aren't able to achieve a first job see their possibilities for planning a future seriously threatened. They lose hope for the future and value the present, today, which favors escapism towards drugs and alcohol.

The violence exercised by this pattern of exclusion implodes among the excluded far more than they impact on the rest of society:

Although the rate of homicides is repeatedly represented as greater, it isn't increasing nearly as rapidly as that of suicides. Among people in the 45 to 60 age group, the increase in suicides and domestic violence parallels unemployment increase: three times more suicides than homicides, with a 20% increase from 1999 to 2000.

The statistics on young people's addictions in Buenos Aires (Capital) and Greater Buenos Aires evolve parallel to those of youth's unemployment.

- Young people (14-18 years old) who neither work nor study: 45%

- Young people (19-25 years old) with addiction problems: 38.9%

Proposals

On the national level:

A. Unemployment Insurance that covers the minimum needs of a family

B. Pensions that cover basic needs. Independence of pension payments from conditioning by either domestic or international State obligations.

C. Considering that effective social policies are those that act preventively on areas of vulnerability or precariousness, to avoid people's "falling out of the social network," the concentration of state and NGO's efforts on highest risk groups: pregnant women and infants, young people, and seniors citizens.